

*For Immediate Release*

## **IDOC Staff Support Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers**

Indianapolis, IN (March 15, 2010) – Throughout the month of February, Indiana state employees participated in the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers annual food drive sponsored by the Office of First Lady Cheri Daniels. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and 65 other state agencies collected non-perishable food items to help Indiana residents in need.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of IDOC staff, the Department collected 7227 food items and \$4,247 to be donated to food banks across the state. Each facility encouraged staff to participate in the month-long event by hosting competitions and awarding special prizes to staff who collected the most items. Most of the donations from central Indiana were sent to Gleaners Food Bank, and other facilities throughout the state worked with their local food banks.

The signature event for the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers food drive was IndiCANa, a structure building competition with cans and other non-perishable food items. On Thursday, February 18, participating state agencies gathered in the Indiana Government Center to compete in the event. Fourteen teams built structures related to Indiana or the food drive. Team ICAN from IDOC built a prison cell door complete with an original lock from the Indiana State Prison and “commissary items”.

The food banks that received donations from the fundraiser were especially thankful given that their shelves are emptying as quickly as they are filled. A recent study by the Feeding Indiana’s Hungry organization reported that 1 in 10 Indiana families receive assistance from food banks and that nearly half receiving the assistance are children and seniors. In Indiana last year, nearly 700,000 people relied on food banks. Of those individuals, 296,000 were children and about 38,000 were seniors.

"As Hoosiers, we have a moral obligation to help those less fortunate; as mothers and fathers, we have a parental responsibility to feed our children; and, as state employees, we have committed to providing a service to our communities," said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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